



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attorney General McGraw Warns WV Businesses of Fraudulent Letters Appearing to Come From His Office

Attorney General Darrell McGraw issued a warning today about letters sent to West Virginia businesses falsely claiming the Attorney General's Office was investigating their business practices. These letters appear on forged letterhead bearing a state seal and the address of either McGraw's Consumer Protection Division or Workers Compensation Division. One of the letters claimed to be from McGraw himself.

The forgeries are of poor quality and contain numerous misspellings and typos. The letters have been mailed from different parts of the state and have also appeared on bulletin boards in local post offices.

The forgeries falsely claiming to be from the Consumer Protection Division were not signed by an employee of the Attorney General's Office. McGraw said, "No business investigated by the Attorney General's Office would receive correspondence without the signature of an employee."

McGraw warns, "These fake letters are causing serious harm to the small business community. Some businesses have even gone to the expense of hiring an attorney. We believe there may be follow-up letters or e-mails seeking settlement from the affected business, since most scams are designed to extort money from innocent victims. We have been in contact with federal prosecutors to determine if federal laws have been violated."

If you are a business and believe that you have received a forged letter from the Attorney General's Office, please contact Attorney General Darrell McGraw's Toll-Free hotline, at 1-800-368-8808 or e-mail consumer@wvago.gov

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